Projects in the agricultural and technological universities in Maharashtra These includes 24 in Crop Sciences, 3 in Horticulture, 7 in Animal Sciences, 12 in Natural Resource Management, 6 in Agricultural Engineering and one in Agricultural Education. In addition, 27 ad-hoc schemes were sponsored.

(b) For the All India Coordinated Research Projects, the Council has provided Rs. 1382.95, 1448.16 and 1557.55 lakhs during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively. The Council also provided development grants of Rs. 483.13, 726.26 and 650.00 lakhs to the five gricultural universities of the State during the respective three years. A sum of Rs. 387.32 lakhs for the ad-hoc projects and Rs. 354.58 lakhs for the Krishi Vigyan Kendras has also been provided to Maharashtra during the last three years.

(c) and (d) The achievements of the All India Coordinated Research Projects are evaluated in their Annual Workshops, Coordination Committee Meetings, Quinquennial Review Team evaluation and by personal visits of the concerned Project Coordinator, Deputy Director General and Assistant Director General of the Council. Regarding other schemes, there is a mechanism of annual review of the progress, in the Council the Quinquennial Review Team Report is put up to the Governing Body of the Council and the observations are conveyed for compliance. Achievements are utilised for achieving the objectives of the project/scheme. Centres not performing well are identified, given opportunity to improve and shifted to new locations in case of continued failure.

Assistance to H.P. from Contingency Fund

2099. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre had decided to release more funds from the contingency fund to help the drought, flood, thunder, landslide and snow affected areas of Himachal Pradesh for relief efforts in view of the fact the funds from the calamity relief fund are not enough to meet its demand; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b)The Government of India supplements the financial and logistic efforts of the State Governments. Financial assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is given as per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC).The Government is expected to meet expenditure from the CRF for immediate relief to the victims of natural calamities *viz.* cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm.

As per the scheme of National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), which is based on the recommendations of the EFC, financial assistance from NCCF is considered in the wake of a calamity of severe nature, taking into account the funds required for relief according to the norms laid down, and the funds available in CRF of the State Government, to which Government of India contributes 75%.

The CRF allocation to Himachal Pradesh for the year 2003-04 is Rs. 50.33 crore, out of which the Central share is Rs. 37.75 crore. The first installment of Central share of Rs. 18.875 crore, due for release on 1st May, 2003, has been released to the State Government by the Ministry of Finance for want of Utilisation Certificate. The entire Central share was released to the State for the years 2000-01 to 2002-03. For drought of 2002-03, financial assistance of Rs. 14.35 crores from NCCF and 0.10 Lakh MTs of foodgrains for relief employment were provided to the State.

Government of Himachal Pradesh has not so far submitted any memorandum during current financial year for financial assistance from NCCF.

Mission for Medicinal Plants

2100. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:
SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any ad-hoc mission for researching medicinal plants throughout India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;